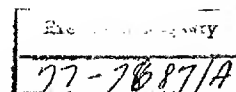




Washington, D.C. 20505

OLC 77-2028/7



25 JUL 1977

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SSCI

77-0350/58

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

☐ Certain statements about CIA matters in your two letters of May 19 raise issues of policy and interpretation which I believe would be usefully addressed to minimize the chance of future misunderstandings between us. I would like to discuss these issues separately from my remarks on the National Foreign Intelligence Program in general.



☐ In your letter authorizing the NFIP budget, you have asked me for a report on the Agency's worldwide ☐ infrastructure within 90 days. As you know, the entire covert action infrastructure is being examined in depth by the Special Coordination Committee at the direction of the President. The findings will be made known to the Committee as soon as they are available to me. I cannot, however, guarantee that all the questions raised by the Committee will have been answered within the Executive Branch within 90 days. And I urge the Committee to await Presidential decisions before making any further judgments on selective activities in the infrastructure.

25X1 [] More generally, I am extremely concerned that the Select
Committee, in an effort to exercise its proper oversight role, has
intruded on an area of Presidential responsibility. In the case of the
25X1 activity [] the Committee has taken action which in effect
could seriously hamper an important Presidential negotiating tool
by establishing conditions on this activity which go beyond present
statutory requirements; should such detailed directives be levied by
the Committee I may be unable to carry out the responsibility assigned
to me through the SCC, in the area of these special activities which
further the foreign policy interest of the U.S. I believe that the present
mechanism established for approval and control of these special activities
taken together with the notification provisions which we follow scrupulously
are sufficient to insure strict control and accountability []

25X1

25X1 [] I would urge, therefore, that the Committee reconsider
25X1 its position []

25X1 [] The instructions on use of the Reserve for Contingencies include
the statement that "any unused balance shall be returned to the Reserve."
The letter is not specific as to whether funds from Reserve releases should
be treated as one-year or multi-year funds. Unless advised to the contrary,
we would plan to continue our current practice of returning unused balances
from individual Reserve releases to the Contingency Reserve fund either
at the end of each fiscal year, or earlier in the year if the amount withdrawn
proves larger than necessary.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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LJK/